

Remarks

Claims 1 and 3 through 13 are now pending.

Claim 2 has been cancelled and claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the substance of claim 2.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to delete the reference to the optional oil and to thereby rely upon process claims 6 and 7 to apply the optional oil.

The Rejection

The following patents have been relied upon to reject various of the Applicants' claims:

	<u>U.S. Patents</u>
3,965,055	Shichman, et al. (Shichman)
5,627,237	Halasa, et al. (Halasa)

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Sections 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 5, 7 through 9 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being obvious over, Shichman as evidenced by Halasa.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2 through 4 and 6 would be allowable if appropriately amended. Accordingly, as hereinbefore indicated, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the substance of claim 2. Claim 2 has therefore been cancelled.

A reconsideration of the rejections of the Applicants' claims is thereby requested in view of the aforesaid made to the claims and comments herein.

It is believed that the Examiner's objections under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 second paragraph have been remedied by amendments made to the claims.

Discussion

A. Regarding Allowable Subject Matter

It is believed that claims 1, 3 and 4 as well as claims 10 through 12, as amended, are now in condition for allowance.

B. Regarding the Examiner's Rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) and Section 103(a)

The Applicants' process claims 5 through 9 and 13 are now ultimately dependent from amended claim 1.

It is believed that the Shichman reference is materially deficient in a sense of not teaching of suggesting a process which is dependent upon the Applicants' recited combination of materials in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, it is contended that the Applicants' dependent claims 5 through 9 and 13 are not anticipated by Shichman in the sense of 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b).

Further, it is contended that the further, additive processes of the Applicants' dependent claims 5 through 9 and 13, whether or not taught or suggested in part by Shichman are not obvious in view of Shichman in the sense of 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) because said claims are ultimately dependent from amended claim 1 and therefore contain the restrictions of amended claim 1, for which it is believed renders the Shichman reference materially deficient in this regard.

It should be noted that the Applicants' claims 6 and 7 are utilized to provide the optional oil to the Applicants' process and are ultimately dependent from claim 1.

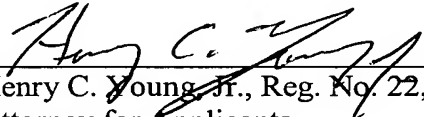
It is contended that the cited Halasa patent publication does not correct the aforesaid material deficiency of Shichman and that therefore the Applicants' claims 5 through 9 and 13, which are ultimately dependent from amended claim 1 and therefore contain its restrictions, are not obvious in view of the combination of Shichman and Halasa in the sense of 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a).

Conclusion

In view of the amendments made to the claims and comments herein it is contended that the Applicants' claims 1, 3, 4, and 10 through 12 are in condition for allowance and that process

claims 5 through 9 and 13 are patentably distinct from Shichman or a combination of Shichman and Halasa in the sense of 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) or Section 103(a).

Respectfully submitted,


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